

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 17 - 25, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend the claims 1-16 with the respective identically numbered claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer visible surface, wherein the outer visible surface is composed of an appearance changing substance responsive to a change in a surrounding physical environment ~~an environmental stimulus~~.
2. (currently amended) A housing as recited in claim 1 wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device, and further wherein the plurality of internal components generates ~~the~~ an environmental stimulus coupled to the outer visible surface in response to the change in the surrounding physical environment.
3. (original) A housing as recited in claim 1 wherein the environmental stimulus is a combination of one or more stimuli selected from a group consisting of an acoustic stimulus, a thermal stimulus, an electrical stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, an olfactory stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.
4. (original) A housing as recited in claim 3 further comprising:
at least one resistive element, wherein the thermal stimulus is an energizing of the at least one resistive element.

5. (original) A housing as recited in claim 1 wherein the appearance changing substance is a combination of one or more substances selected from a group consisting of a color changing substance, a pattern changing substance, an illumination producing substance, a shape changing substance, and a sensory producing substance.

6. (original) A housing as recited in claim 5 wherein the sensory producing substance is a combination of one or more substances selected from a group consisting of a thermal producing substance, a vibration producing substance, and a haptic producing substance.

7. (currently amended) A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer visible surface having:

at least one shape element composed of an appearance changing substance
responsive to a change in a surrounding physical environment ~~an environmental stimulus~~.

8. (currently amended) A housing as recited in claim 7 wherein the shape element changes appearance ~~becomes visible~~ in response to the change in the surrounding physical environment ~~environmental stimulus~~.

9. (currently amended) A housing as recited in claim 7 wherein the shape element becomes invisible in response to the change in the surrounding physical environment ~~environmental stimulus~~.

10. (original) A housing as recited in claim 7 wherein the shape element comprises at least one identification information selected from the group consisting of identification data, identification codes, identification patterns, and identification images.

11. (currently amended) A housing as recited in claim 7 wherein the shape element comprises an environment index gauge, wherein the environment index gauge identifies the surrounding physical environment.

12. (currently amended) A housing as recited in claim 7, wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device, and further wherein the plurality of internal components generates ~~the~~ an environmental stimulus coupled to the outer visible surface in response to the change in the surrounding physical environment.

13. (original) A housing as recited in claim 7 wherein the environmental stimulus is a combination of one or more stimuli selected from a group consisting of an acoustic stimulus, a thermal stimulus, an electrical stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, an olfactory stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.

14. (original) A housing as recited in claim 12 further comprising:
at least one resistive element, wherein the thermal stimulus is an energizing of the at least one resistive element.

15. (original) A housing as recited in claim 7 wherein the appearance changing substance is a combination of one or more substances selected from a group consisting of a color changing substance, a pattern changing substance, an illumination producing substance, a shape changing substance, and a sensory producing substance.

16. (original) A housing as recited in claim 15 wherein the sensory producing substance is a combination of one or more substances selected from a group consisting of a thermal producing substance, a vibration producing substance, and a haptic producing substance.

17. (withdrawn)

18. (withdrawn)

19. (withdrawn)

20. (withdrawn)

21. (withdrawn)

22. (withdrawn)

23. (withdrawn)

24. (withdrawn)

25. (withdrawn)